



National Environmental Public Health Tracking User Guide

August 2011

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Becoming Familiar with the Tracking Network Public Portal	3
2.1	Environments	3
2.2	Health Effects	9
2.3	Info by Location.....	15
2.3.1	Content Areas, Indicators, and Measures	17
2.4	Quick Links, Tracking Hot Topics, and Resources	18
2.4.1	Quick Links	18
2.4.2	Tracking Hot Topics.....	22
2.4.3	Resources.....	22
2.5	Search.....	23
3.	Navigating and Using the Tracking Network Public Portal	26
3.1	Getting to Data through the Home Page Interactive Areas.....	26
	You can always go straight to the query and results page by clicking on Search	26
	Tracking Data from the home page.	26
3.1.1	Environments.....	26
3.1.2	Health Effects.....	28
3.1.3	Info by Location	30
3.2	The Data Query and Results Page	32
3.3	Query Indicators.....	41
3.4	Search and View Metadata	44
3.5	Sample Search Scenarios.....	47
3.5.1	I want to learn more about arsenic in water.	47
3.5.2	I want to learn more about older homes in my state that have lead based paint. 51	
3.5.3	What kind of cancer information and data are on the Network.....	53
3.5.4	I want to see the Tracking Network Public Portal for New Mexico.....	54
3.5.5	I want to find asthma metadata.	54
4.	The Secure Portal.....	56

Table of Figures

Figure 1. Tracking Network Public Portal Home Page	3
Figure 2. Options Available from the <i>Environments</i> screen.....	4
Figure 3. The <i>Homes</i> option from the <i>Environments</i> screen	6
Figure 4. The <i>Homes and Health</i> Subheading	7
Figure 5. The <i>Tracking Housing Conditions</i> Subheading	8
Figure 6. The Tracking Network Home Page	9
Figure 7. The <i>Health Effects</i> landing page.....	10
Figure 8. <i>Heart Attacks</i> from the <i>Health Effects</i> screen.....	12
Figure 9. <i>Heart Attacks and the Environment</i> from the <i>Health Effects</i> screen.....	13
Figure 10. <i>Tracking Heart Attacks</i> page from the <i>Health Effects</i> screen.....	14
Figure 11. <i>Info by Location</i> on the home page.....	15
Figure 12. <i>Info by location</i> map.....	16
Figure 13. <i>Tracking home page quick links</i>	18
Figure 14. The Tracking Program's 23 participating health departments	19
Figure 15. <i>Indicators</i> drop down list and <i>Data</i> search box	20
Figure 16. <i>Starting a new search</i>	24
Figure 17. <i>Sample search results</i>	25
Figure 17. The <i>Environments</i> link from the home page	27
Figure 18. The data search options from the <i>Environments</i> page	28
Figure 19. The <i>Health Effects</i> link from the home page.....	29
Figure 20. <i>Info by Location</i> link from the home page	30
Figure 21. <i>Data Query and Results</i> page from the <i>Info by Location</i> link.	31
Figure 22. The <i>Query and Results</i> page.....	32
Figure 23. <i>Data Query and Results</i> page use agreement.....	35
Figure 24. The <i>Data Query and Results</i> graph view	39
Figure 25. The <i>Data Query and Results</i> table view	40
Figure 28. <i>Indicator Definitions and Documentation</i> lookup screen.....	42
Figure 29. <i>Indicator</i> screen from the home page <i>Query Indicators & Data tab</i>	43
Figure 30. <i>Data-Indicators</i> and <i>Data</i> search area.....	45
Figure 31. <i>Metadata Summary</i>	45
Figure 32. The <i>Search for Data</i> drop down list from the <i>Advanced Search</i> option	46
Figure 33. The <i>Advanced Search</i> screen for <i>Metadata</i>	47
Figure 34. The <i>Environments</i> tab	48

Figure 35. The Water landing page.....	48
Figure 36. The options available from the <i>more community water data and information</i> link.....	50
Figure 37. The Info by Location state selection area.....	51
Figure 38. The Info by Location geography and content area selection screen.....	52
Figure 39. The Health Effects tab.....	53
Figure 40. The <i>Search Data-Indicators and Data area</i>	55
Figure 41. The Secure Portal screen	59

1. Introduction

Welcome to the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network User Guide.

Environmental causes of chronic diseases are hard to identify. Measuring amounts of hazardous substances in our environment in a standard way, tracking the spread of these over time and geography, seeing how they show up in human tissues, and understanding how they may cause illness is critical but very difficult to do. The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network) is CDC's effort to combine data for some of these components into one resource to benefit public health.

The Tracking Network is a system of integrated health, exposure, and hazard information and data from a variety of national, state, and city sources. On the Tracking Network, you can explore information and view maps, tables, and charts about health and the environment across the country.

The chapters in this manual are:

- **Becoming Familiar with the Tracking Network Public Portal**

A guide through the main topics of the Public Portal.

- **Navigating and Using the Tracking Network Public Portal**

Lessons in navigating the Public Portal—how to find information and documentation, and how to display data.

- **The Tracking Network Secure Portal**

An introduction to the secure portal—what it contains, and how to access it.

- **Frequently Asked Questions**

A list of questions users most often ask.

If you have technical questions about the Tracking Network contact us at 1-877-923-8722 or email us at trackingsupport@cdc.gov.

2. Becoming Familiar with the Tracking Network Public Portal

This chapter focuses on becoming familiar with portal content through the navigation links and the three interactive areas featured on the home page:

Environments, *Health Effects*, and *Info by Location*. Figure 1 below is the Tracking Network Public Portal home page which is located at www.cdc.gov/ephtracking/.

2.1 Environments

From the home page, the *Environments* link provides access to the environmental health topics included in the Tracking Network.



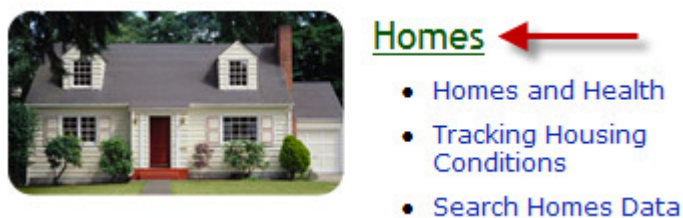
Figure 1. Tracking Network Public Portal Home Page

From the Environments screen, select any of the main headings—*Climate Change*, *Community Design*, *Homes*, *Outdoor Air*, or *Water*. (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Options Available from the *Environments* screen

As an example, click on the main heading, *Homes*.



From this page you can:

1. Learn about two major health effects associated with housing: childhood lead poisoning and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
2. Read how public health information is collected about lead and CO exposures in the home.
3. Learn about contaminants in the home. At this time the Tracking Network contains information about lead and CO.
4. Learn about how the Tracking Network uses childhood lead poisoning and carbon monoxide data.
5. View related resource links.
6. Read about the *Blood Lead Testing and Housing Age* indicators.
7. Go directly to the *Data Query and Results* page.

See Figure 3 below.

See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.



Figure 3. The *Homes* option from the *Environments* screen

In each area you will find more specific information, related links, and a way to search for data for that topic. The other *Environments* pages (*Outdoor Air*, *Water*, *etc.*) will have a similar layout.

You can access some of these sections quickly from the *Environments* home page as well. The first *Homes* subheading is *Homes and Health*.



Homes

- [Homes and Health](#)
- [Tracking Housing Conditions](#)
- [Search Homes Data](#)

This link opens a page that details two major health issues associated with exposures in the home—childhood lead poisoning and CO poisoning. To learn more, click on the links for each condition. (Figure 4)

Tracking A-Z Index [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) #

Homes

Home > [Environments](#) > Homes

National Environmental Public Health Tracking

Homes

Tracking Housing Conditions

Related Links

Search Housing Data

Tracking Links [Environments](#) [Health Effects](#) [Info by Location](#)

Quick Links

Homes and Health

Monitoring Home Contaminants in the US

Home Contaminants

Homes and Health

The connection between housing and health is well established. People spend half of every day, sometimes more, inside their homes. Clearly, the housing environment is one of the major influences on health and well-being. As early as the mid-19th century, physicians advocated healthy housing to reduce death and illness among the poor.

Many modern housing and building codes can be traced to the public health responses to epidemics that occurred with the rapid industrialization and urbanization in Western countries a hundred years ago. In the mid-20th century, however, housing and health agencies became separated organizationally, which resulted in less focus on preventing housing-related disease and illness.

Recently, the public health community renewed its interest in promoting healthy housing. Several research studies have shown improved health outcomes from policies that targeted living conditions, especially housing.

CDC provides data on the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (EPHTN) to better understand how housing conditions affect health.

On this website, information is available about two major health effects associated with housing: [childhood lead poisoning](#) and [carbon monoxide poisoning](#).

Childhood Lead Poisoning

Between 1999 and 2004, an estimated 240,000 children 1-5 years of age had elevated blood-lead levels, and most of these levels were caused by lead paint-hazards in and around their homes. Lead exposure causes lasting damage to a child's neurodevelopment and behavior problems. In fact, in high amounts lead can be deadly. Although it is no longer used, lead-based paint poisoned millions of children.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is one of the leading causes of unintentional poisoning deaths in the United States. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that is given off whenever fuel or other materials are burned. Between 2001 and 2003, more than 15,000 Americans were treated in hospital emergency departments for non-fire-related CO exposure; 64% of these exposures occurred in the home. CO poisoning can cause shortness of breath, neurobehavioral effects, and even death. Low-level CO exposure may cause irregular heartbeat and damage to the heart muscle.

[Top of Page](#)

Quick Links

Home

About Tracking Program

State & Local Tracking Portals

Indicators & Data

Secure Portal

Email page

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Tracking Hot Topics

Heart attacks and air quality ? what's the connection?

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Resources

Communication Features

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[What's this?](#)

Figure 4. The *Homes and Health* Subheading

From the Environments home page, the second subheading is *Tracking Housing Conditions*.



Homes

- [Homes and Health](#)
- [Tracking Housing Conditions](#)
- [Search Homes Data](#)



From here you can learn about childhood lead and CO poisoning surveillance and access a link to CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. (Figure 5)

Tracking A-Z Index [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) #

Homes

[Home](#) > [Environments](#) > Homes

National Environmental Public Health Tracking

Homes

► [Tracking Housing Conditions](#)

[Related Links](#)

[Search Housing Data](#)

Tracking Links

[Environments](#) [Health Effects](#) [Info by Location](#)



Quick Links

- [Homes and Health](#)
- [Monitoring Home Contaminants in the US](#)
- [Home Contaminants](#)

Tracking Housing Conditions

The Tracking Network currently contains data on one key indicator associated with homes: lead poisoning testing in children. Soon the Network will also have data on the number of jurisdictions with CO detector laws. These two indicators provide information on environmental conditions that are associated with housing conditions and that can cause adverse health effects, ([childhood lead poisoning](#) and [CO poisoning](#)).

Childhood Lead Poisoning

The Network uses multiple data sources to develop measures of blood-lead testing, housing age, and poverty for this indicator. CDC's [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#) compiles information from state and local childhood lead poisoning-prevention programs to track childhood blood-lead testing and levels. CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides technical and financial assistance to state and local programs and provides national guidance and policy on preventing and treating childhood lead poisoning. Data on housing age and the number of children living in poverty are available from the 2000 census. Finally, birth-record data collected and reported annually by state vital statistics offices provides information about the number of births in a specific year or birth cohort.



Quick Links

- [Home](#)
- [About Tracking Program](#)
- [State & Local Tracking Portals](#)
- [Indicators & Data](#)
- [Secure Portal](#)
- [Email page](#)
- [Print page](#)
- [Bookmark and share](#)
- [CDC on Facebook](#)
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Tracking Hot Topics

Heart attacks and air quality? what's the connection?

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Podcast: Keep Carbon Monoxide Out

What's new and coming soon on the Tracking Network

View our Network Tutorial Videos

Listen to our Tracking podcasts

Figure 5. The *Tracking Housing Conditions* Subheading

From the Environments home page, the final subheading is *Search Homes Data*, which will take you directly to the *Data Query and Results* page.



Homes

- [Homes and Health](#)
- [Tracking Housing Conditions](#)
- [Search Homes Data](#)



See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.

2.2 Health Effects

Back on the home page, you will see an option to navigate to the health effects information included in the Tracking Network. (Figure 6)



Figure 6. The Tracking Network Home Page

Selecting from the main headings will lead to specific information about that topic, related resource links, and data searches. If you choose the Health Effects link you will come to the Health Effects landing page. (Figure 7)

Tracking A-Z Index [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) #

Health Effects Glossary A-Z CDC A-Z Tracking A-Z



There is a gap in information about how the environment affects chronic diseases like asthma and cancer.

Quick Links

- Environments
- Health Effects
- Info By Location

Quick Links

- Home
- About Tracking Program
- State & Local Tracking Portals
- Indicators & Data
- Secure Portal
- Email page
- Print page
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Asthma

- Asthma and the Environment
- Tracking Asthma
- Search Asthma Data

Childhood Lead Poisoning

- Childhood Lead Poisoning and the Environment
- Tracking Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Search Childhood Lead Poisoning Data

Birth Defects

- Birth Defects and the Environment
- Tracking Birth Defects
- Search Birth Defects Data

Heart Attacks

- Heart Attacks and the Environment
- Tracking Heart Attacks
- Search Heart Attacks Data

Cancer

- Cancer and the Environment
- Tracking Cancer
- Search Cancer Data

Reproductive and Birth Outcomes

- Reproductive and Birth Outcomes and the Environment
- Tracking Reproductive and Birth Outcomes
- Search Reproductive and Birth Outcomes Data

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and the Environment
- Tracking Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Search Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Data

Population Characteristics

- Population Characteristics and Environmental Health
- Tracking Population Characteristics
- Search Population Characteristics Data

[Top of Page](#)

Figure 7. The *Health Effects* landing page

These subheadings show how we track each health effect and explain what we know about ways in which the environment and other factors may influence it. The last subheading for each area will take you directly to the data query and results page.

For example, selecting the *Heart Attacks* main heading will take you to a page that begins to explain why heart attack information is part of the Tracking Network.



Heart Attacks ←

- [Heart Attacks and the Environment](#)
- [Tracking Heart Attacks](#)
- [Search Heart Attacks Data](#)

From the Heart Attacks main page you can:

1. Learn about the role the environment plays in heart attacks.
2. Learn about exposure and risk factors associated with heart attacks.
3. Learn about preventing and reducing risks for heart attacks.
4. Learn how the Tracking Network uses heart attack surveillance data.
5. View more resource links related to heart attacks.
6. View the Hospitalizations for Heart Attack indicator information.
7. Search heart attack data through the data query and results page.

See Figure 8 below.

See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.



Heart Attacks

- [Heart Attacks and the Environment](#) ←
- [Tracking Heart Attacks](#)
- [Search Heart Attacks Data](#)

This option will take you to a page describing what we know about the role the environment plays in heart attacks. (Figure 9) On this page you can:

1. Read about heart attacks and the environment.
2. Mouse over the blue hyperlinks to read definitions about important highlighted words.

Tracking A-Z Index [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) #

Heart Attacks

[Home](#) > [Health Effects](#) > Heart Attacks

National Environmental Public Health Tracking

- Heart Attacks
- Tracking Heart Attacks
- Related Links
- Search Heart Attack Data

Tracking Links

- [Environments](#)
- [Health Effects](#)
- [Info by Location](#)

Quick Links

- [Heart Attacks and the Environment](#)
- [Exposure and Risk](#)
- [Prevention](#)

Heart Attacks and the Environment

According to the American Heart Association, "studies have demonstrated a consistent [risk for cardiovascular](#) events in relation to both short- and [long-term exposure to present-day](#) concentrations of [ambient particulate matter](#)."

Increasingly, investigators both in the United States and abroad have shown relationships between exposure to short and long term exposure to particulate [air pollution](#) and the increased risk of myocardial infarction, referred to as [heart attack](#), and other forms of [coronary heart disease](#). A number of studies have reported associations between air pollution and [hospitalizations](#) for heart attacks and other forms of [heart disease](#). For example, researchers have demonstrated increases in heart attack hospitalization rates in relation to fine [particles \(PM2.5\)](#), particularly in sensitive groups, such as the elderly, patients with pre-existing heart disease, survivors of heart attack, or people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Quick Links

- [Home](#)
- [About Tracking Program](#)
- [State & Local Tracking Portals](#)
- [Indicators & Data](#)
- [Secure Portal](#)
- [Email page](#)
- [Print page](#)
- [Bookmark and share](#)
- [CDC on Facebook](#)
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Tracking Hot Topics

- Heart attacks and air quality? what's the connection?
- We just reached 1000 Twitter followers.
- Follow us to join the conversation and for the latest updates.
- Podcast: Keep Carbon Monoxide Out
- What's new and coming soon on the Tracking Network
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Figure 9. *Heart Attacks and the Environment* from the *Health Effects* screen.

From the Health Effects main page, the next subheading is *Tracking Heart Attacks*.



Heart Attacks

- [Heart Attacks and the Environment](#)
- [Tracking Heart Attacks](#) ←
- [Search Heart Attacks Data](#)

This will take you to a page that describes how the Tracking Network uses heart attack surveillance data. (Figure 10)

Tracking A-Z Index [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) #

Heart Attacks

[Home](#) > [Health Effects](#) > Heart Attacks

National Environmental Public Health Tracking

Heart Attacks

► [Tracking Heart Attacks](#)

Related Links

[Search Heart Attack Data](#)

Tracking Links

[Environments](#) [Health Effects](#) [Info by Location](#)

Quick Links

[Heart Attacks and the Environment](#)

[Exposure and Risk](#)

[Prevention](#)

Tracking Heart Attacks

Currently, the United States does not have a single [heart attack](#) surveillance system, nor does a surveillance system exist for [coronary heart disease](#) in general. [Mortality](#) is the primary descriptor for national data for heart attacks. Estimates of [incidence](#) and [prevalence](#) of heart attacks and coronary heart disease are largely based on survey samples (e.g., National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and National Ambulatory Care Survey) or large cohort studies such as the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study.

Tracking [hospital admissions](#) for heart attacks will help with:

- examination of time trends in hospital admissions;
- [identification](#) of any seasonal patterns;
- assessment of geographic differences in hospital admissions;
- evaluation of differences in heart attack hospital admissions by age, gender, and [race/ethnicity](#); and
- determination of populations in need of targeted interventions.

The Tracking Network is using hospital admission dates to count the cases of heart attacks. Other public health programs use the hospital discharge dates to count the cases of heart attacks. This counting variance may cause a difference in heart attack rates between the Tracking Network and other public health Web sites.

[Top of Page](#)

Quick Links

[Home](#)

[About Tracking Program](#)

[State & Local Tracking Portals](#)

[Indicators & Data](#)

[Secure Portal](#)

[Email page](#)

[Print page](#)

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[Quick Reports](#)

[Technical Notes](#)

Figure 10. *Tracking Heart Attacks* page from the *Health Effects* screen.

From the Health Effects main page, the last subheading is *Search Heart Attacks Data*.



Heart Attacks

- Heart Attacks and the Environment
- Tracking Heart Attacks
- Search Heart Attacks Data



This link will take you directly to the Data Query and Results page.

See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.

2.3 Info by Location

From the home page, the *Info by Location* section will allow you to search available data by state. (Figure 11)

CDC Home
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Your Online Source for Credible Health Information

Tracking A-Z Index A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

Glossary A-Z CDC A-Z Tracking A-Z

National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

New and Improved Data Query and Results Panel!
Click here to try it >>

What is the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network?
The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network) is a system of integrated health, exposure, and hazard information and data from a variety of national, state, and city sources.
On the Tracking Network, you can view maps, tables, and charts with data about:

- chemicals and other substances found in the environment
- some chronic diseases and conditions
- the area where you live

[Learn more about the Tracking Network](#)
[Search Tracking Data](#)

Environments

- Climate Change
- Outdoor Air
- Water
- More

Health Effects

- Asthma
- Cancer
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- More Health Conditions

Info by Location

Select State:

Quick Links

- Home
- About Tracking Program
- State & Local Tracking Portals
- Indicators & Data
- Secure Portal
- Email page
- Print page
- Bookmark and share
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Tracking Hot Topics

Heart attacks and air quality? what's the connection?
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What's new and coming soon on the Tracking Network
View our Network Tutorial Videos
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Resources

- Communication Features
- Join our List-serv
- Quick Reports
- Technical Notes

[Top of Page](#)

Figure 11. Info by Location on the home page

Choosing the *Info by Location* link opens a map of the United States. You can then select criteria for a state specific search. (Figure 12)

Step 1 - Select a state by clicking on it from the map.

Step 2 - Select a content area, indicator, and measure. Click the *GO* button to be taken to the *Data query and Results* page.

Tracking A-Z Index [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) <#>

Glossary A-Z CDC A-Z Tracking A-Z

Query and Results

Step 1: Select a State.

Step 2: Select your content area.
You selected the state of: **New Mexico**

Content Area:

Select Indicator:

Select Measure:

GO

[Top of Page](#)

This symbol means you are leaving the CDC.gov Web site. For more information, please see CDC's [Exit Notification and Disclaimer policy](#).

Quick Links

- [Home](#)
- [About Tracking Program](#)
- [State & Local Tracking Portals](#)
- [Indicators & Data](#)
- [Secure Portal](#)
- [Email page](#)
- [Print page](#)
- [Bookmark and share](#)
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- [Join our List-serv](#)
- [Quick Reports](#)
- [Technical Notes](#)

Text size: [S](#) [M](#) [L](#) [XL](#)

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[What's this?](#)

Figure 12. *Info by location* map

2.3.1 Content Areas, Indicators, and Measures

The drop down menus under **Step 2: Select your content area** are dynamic. (Figure 12) This means your *Indicator* and *Measure* selections will adjust based on the content area selection you start with, proceeding from more general categories to more specific categories.

Content Area (the starting point for data categorization in the Tracking Network) is the general health effect or environmental area about which you want more information. In the example, *Homes* is selected as the content area. (Figure 12) From that selection the next drop down menu displays only *Indicators* pertaining to *Homes*.

Indicators are available within each content area. For Tracking, an indicator is one or more items, characteristics or other things that will be assessed and that provide information about a population's health status, their environment, and other factors with the goal of allowing us to monitor trends, compare situations, and better understand the link between environment and health. It is assessed through the use of direct and indirect measures (for example levels of a pollutant in the environment as a measure of possible exposure) that describe health or a factor associated with health (such as environmental hazard or age) in a specified population. In the example above, the available indicator for the content area *Homes* is "Blood Lead Testing and Housing Age."

Measures are available for each indicator. On the Tracking Network, a measure is a summary characteristic or statistic, such as a sum, percentage, or rate. In the above example, an available measure for the content area *Homes* is "Number of Houses Built between 1950 to 1979."

Section 3.1.3 is dedicated to helping you navigate through the Info by Location feature.

See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.

2.4 Quick Links, Tracking Hot Topics, and Resources

2.4.1 Quick Links

Quick links appear on the right side of the Tracking Portal home page. Here is an example of the Quick Links: (Figure 13)

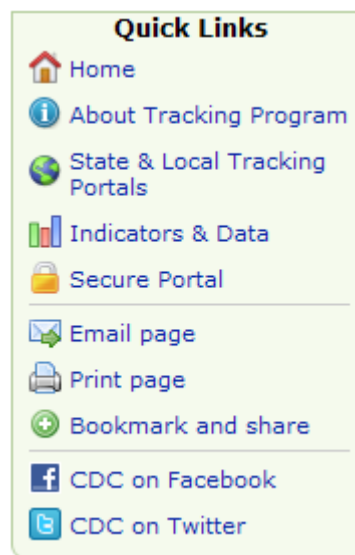


Figure 13. Tracking home page quick links

Home

Clicking the Home link from anywhere in the portal will return you to the Tracking Network home page.

About Tracking Program

This links to background information about the Tracking Program. It provides detailed information about the Program and its underlying concepts.

State and Local Tracking Portals

Here you can access the tracking portals of the 24 state and local health departments that are part of the National Tracking Network. (Figure 14)











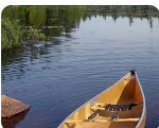













Tracking A-Z Index
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z
#

Glossary A-Z
CDC A-Z
Tracking A-Z

State and Local Tracking Portals

The Tracking Program provides information communities can use to improve their health. This information comes from a nationwide network that integrates health data and environmental data. CDC's Tracking Program has laid the foundation of this national system by providing grants to state and local health departments.

CDC funds health departments in 23 states and 1 city to build and implement local tracking networks. These state and local data systems feed into the national Tracking Network. Previous projects by these grantees have improved information technology through better infrastructure, expanded environmental public health tracking capacity, and trained public health workers. Most importantly, grantees have developed better ways to make information accessible on the Tracking Network to those who need it to take action, such as policy makers and public health officials.

			
California	Colorado	Connecticut	Florida
			
Iowa	Kansas	Louisiana	Maine
			
Maryland	Massachusetts	Minnesota	Missouri
			
New Hampshire	New Jersey	New Mexico	New York
			
New York City	Oregon	Pennsylvania	South Carolina
			
Utah	Vermont	Washington	Wisconsin

New States Join the Tracking Network
 Summer 2009: [Colorado](#), [Kansas](#), [Louisiana](#), [Minnesota](#), [South Carolina](#), and [Vermont](#).
 Summer 2010: [Iowa](#)

CDC continues to advance its goal to one day include all 50 states in the Tracking Network.

Figure 14. The Tracking Program's 24 participating health departments

Indicators and Data

Here you can search for information on environmental Indicators and metadata.

(Figure 15)

Indicators

An [environmental public health indicator](#) provides information about a population's health status with respect to environmental factors. Tracking Indicators were developed in collaboration with national, state, and local environmental health partners. Here you can access detailed information about each indicator available on the Tracking Network.

View Indicator Definitions and Documentation:

Content Area:
Select Content Area

Indicator:

GO

Search for Data

Metadata are "data about data". Metadata describe the content, quality, and context of a dataset and provide links to additional information such as quality assurance documents and data dictionaries. The Tracking Network contains metadata records for datasets used to create the Tracking Indicators and for datasets maintained by national, state, and local environmental health partners.

Search Data-Indicators and Data:

Type in Keywords:

GO Advanced Search

Figure 15. Indicators drop down list and Data search box

Indicators

Indicators are available within each content area. For Tracking, an indicator is one or more items, characteristics or other things that will be assessed and that provide information about a population's health status, their environment, and other factors with the goal of allowing us to monitor trends, compare situations, and better understand the link between environment and health. It is assessed through the use of direct and indirect measures (for example levels of a pollutant in the environment as a measure of possible exposure) that describe health or a factor associated with health (such as environmental hazard or age) in a specified population. From here, you can select a content area and indicator that will return a chart that includes:

- indicator type,
- measure derivation information,
- geography,
- time period and scale,
- rationale,
- limitations of the data source, and
- access to the data query and results page and more.

See Section 3.3, which explains Indicator use.

Search for Data

Generally speaking, metadata are data about data. Metadata describe the content, quality, and context of a dataset and provide links to additional information such as quality assurance documents and data dictionaries. From here you can search for and view the detailed metadata reports available on the Tracking Network Public Portal.

See Section 3.4, Search and View Metadata.

Secure Portal

The next option in Quick Links is the Tracking Network's Secure Portal. This is a separate Web-based system that provides access to resources for environmental and public health practitioners and researchers. To gain access you must register, have an appropriate professional need, and a digital certificate from CDC's Secure Data Networks. The secure portal employs rigorous security measures to protect potentially private and confidential health information.

See Chapter 4.0 for detailed information about the Secure Portal.

Email Page

When clicked the Email Page link opens a new pop up window. Here you can send a link of the current page to any email address.

Print Page

Click to print a view of the current page.

Bookmark and Share

Clicking on Bookmark and Share drops down a list of options to add the current page to your bookmarks or share on your social networks.

CDC on Facebook

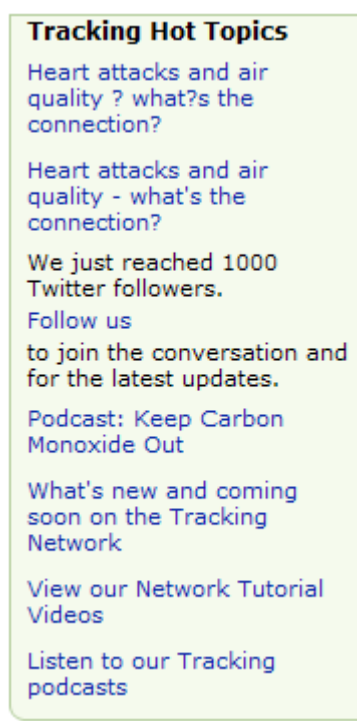
Click here to view the NEPH Tracking Network's Facebook page and "Like" us.

CDC on Twitter

Click [here](#) to view our Twitter page and “Follow” us.

2.4.2 Tracking Hot Topics

These topical and timely links are updated periodically. They typically highlight our partner programs and other CDC programs. There could also be links to updates within the portal. You can also view our portal training videos and listen to podcast about Tracking Network topics.



2.4.3 Resources

The Resources section includes links to pages that are supplemental to the other features of the portal.



Communication Features

Communication Features is a one stop source for Tracking Network communication materials and social media tools.

Join our List-serv

Click here to send us an email request to join our list-serv. When you sign up we will periodically send an update about new developments and news with the Tracking Network.

Quick Reports

To view a list of pre-populated reports available click on Quick Reports. They mirror some of the reports that can be generated using our query panel.

Technical Notes

The technical notes page includes terms and definitions used throughout the public portal. Also, more detailed explanations of the rational behind how our data is displayed in the query panel are also included.

2.5 Search

A search feature is located in the banner at the top of the public portal. Using this will allow you to perform a general search of the content on the public portal.

To use the search feature:

1. Enter a term you would expect to find on the public portal. (Figure 16)



Figure 166. Starting a new search

The results page will load. (Figure 17)

Tracking A-Z Index [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) <#>

Search Results

You searched for: **asthma**
 Search again: Need help? [Search Tips](#)

Results **1 - 10** of about **28**

[Health Effects Asthma - CDC Tracking Network](#)
Asthma is a chronic disease that affects the airways that carry oxygen in and out of the lungs. If a person has **asthma**, the inside of these airways is irritated and swollen. **Asthma** can cause

[Health Effects Asthma and the Environment - CDC Tracking Network](#)
 Exposure and Risk A person can get **asthma** at any age. **Asthma** affects all races, ages, and genders. Although **asthma** affects people of all ages, it often starts in childhood and is more common

[Health Effects Asthma Prevention - CDC Tracking Network](#)
Asthma Prevention **Asthma** has no cure, but it can be controlled. The majority of problems associated with **asthma**, including staying in the hospital, can be prevented if **asthma** is managed properly

[Environments Outdoor Air - CDC Tracking Network](#)
 stays for breathing and heart problems, **asthma**, and increases in illnesses such as pneumonia

[Health Effects Asthma and the Environment - CDC Tracking Network](#)
Asthma and the Environment **Asthma** is a chronic disease that affects the airways that carry oxygen in and out of the lungs. If a person has **asthma**, the inside of these airways is irritated and swollen

[Health Effects Tracking Asthma - CDC Tracking Network](#)
 Tracking **Asthma** Tracking **asthma** involves not only collecting data about people diagnosed and living with **asthma** but also collecting data about people who experience **asthma** attacks. This includes

[National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#)
 Tracking **Asthma** Tracking **asthma** involves not only collecting data about people diagnosed and living with **asthma** but also collecting data about people who experience **asthma** attacks. This includes

[Health Effects Asthma Related Links - CDC Tracking Network](#)
 Related Links CDC Links **Asthma** Program **Asthma** Info for Healthcare Professionals National Center... (EPA)'s **Asthma** Web site EPA's AIRNow Web site National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s National Heart

[Health Effects - CDC Tracking Network](#)
Asthma and the Environment Tracking **Asthma**);";>Search **Asthma** Data Childhood Lead Poisoning Childhood Lead Poisoning and the Environment Tracking Childhood Lead Poisoning);";>Search Childhood

Results Pages: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

[Top of Page](#)

Quick Links

- [Home](#)
- [About Tracking Program](#)
- [State & Local Tracking Portals](#)
- [Indicators & Data](#)
- [Secure Portal](#)
- [Email page](#)
- [Print page](#)
- [Bookmark and share](#)
- [CDC on Facebook](#)
- [CDC on Twitter](#)

Tracking Hot Topics

Heart attacks and air quality ? what's the connection?
 We just reached 1000 Twitter followers.
 Follow us to join the conversation and for the latest updates.
 Podcast: Keep Carbon Monoxide Out
 What's new and coming soon on the Tracking Network.
 View our Network Tutorial Videos
 Listen to our Tracking podcasts

Resources

- [Communication Features](#)
- [Join our List-serv](#)
- [Quick Reports](#)
- [Technical Notes](#)

Text size: [S](#) [M](#) [L](#) [XL](#)

☐ Get email updates
 To receive email updates about this page, enter your email address:

[What's this?](#)

Figure 177. Sample search results

Clicking on Search Tips will take you to a CDC.gov page that introduces basic search concepts and describes more advanced techniques that can help you search more effectively. If there is more than one page of results you can scroll through the pages using the numerical links towards the bottom of the page. The displayed results will take you to pages within the public portal.

3. Navigating and Using the Tracking Network Public Portal

You should now be familiar with the three interactive areas on the home page: *Environments*, *Health Effects*, and *Info by Location*. These interactive areas provide information to help you understand the topics available on the Tracking Network and introduce you to ideas that put in context the data you will access.

3.1 Getting to Data through the Home Page Interactive Areas

You can always go straight to the query and results page by clicking on Search Tracking Data from the home page. (Figure 18)



Figure 188. Search Tracking Data link

3.1.1 Environments

Step 1. From the home page, click the *Environments* link. (Figure 19)



Figure 19. The Environments link from the home page

Step 2. Go directly to the *Data Query and Results* page by choosing any one of the following: (Figure 20)

- Search Climate Change Data,
- Search Outdoor Air Data,
- Search Community Design Data,
- Search Community Water Data, or
- Search Homes Data.

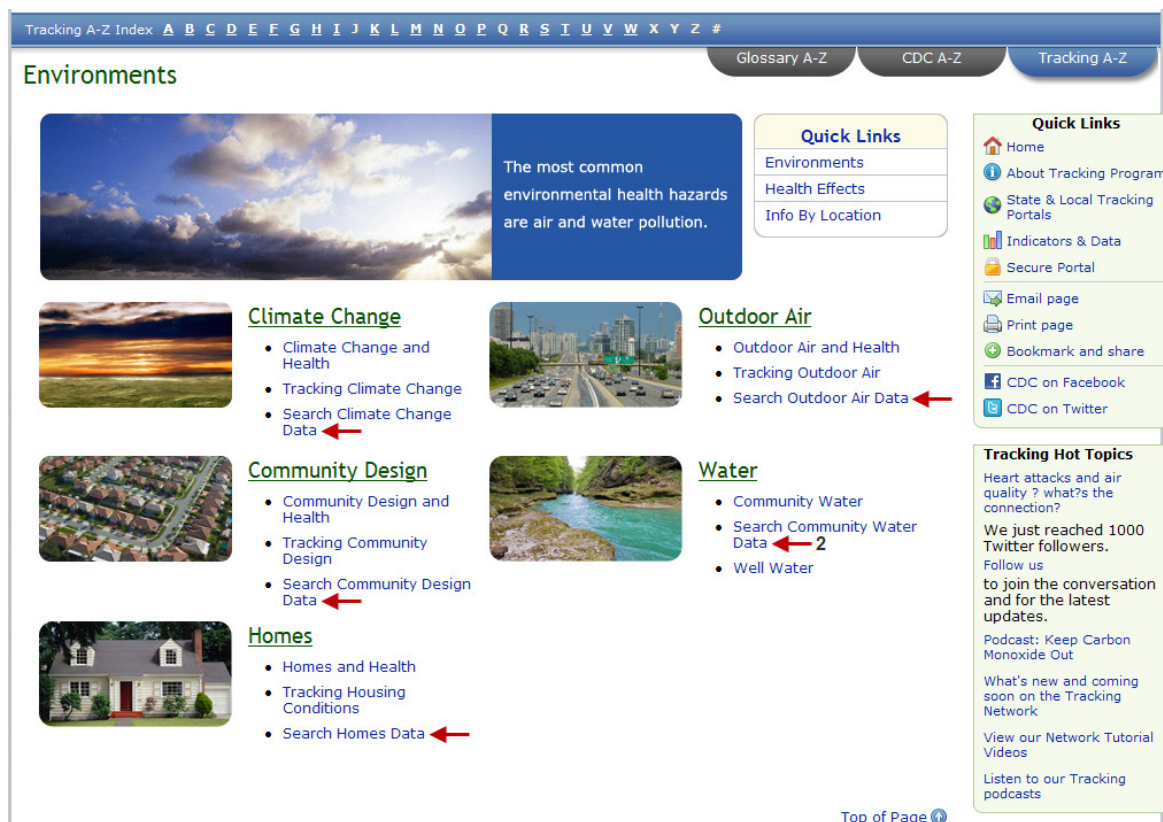


Figure 20. The data search options from the *Environments* page

See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.

3.1.2 Health Effects

Step 1. From the home page, click the Health Effects link or the Health Effects tab.
(Figure 21)



Figure 21. The *Health Effects* link from the home page

Step 2. Go directly to the data query and results page by choosing the search options under any topic:

- Search Asthma Data,
- Search Childhood Lead Poisoning Data,
- Search Birth Defects Data,
- Search Heart Attack Data
- Search Cancer Data,
- Search Reproductive and Birth Outcomes Data,
- Search Carbon Monoxide Data, or
- Search Population Characteristics Data.



See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.

3.1.3 Info by Location

Step 1. From the home page click on the Info by Location tab to open a United States map or choose a state from the drop down box and click **Search**. (Figure 22)



Figure 22. Info by Location link from the home page

Step 2. Verify your selected state at the top of the page then select your content area, indicator, and measure. (Figure 23)

Step 3. Click **GO** to be taken directly to the Data Query and Results page.

See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.

Tracking A-Z Index
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

Query and Results
Glossary A-Z
CDC A-Z
Tracking A-Z

Step 1: Select a State.

Step 2: Select your content area.
You selected the state of: **New Mexico**

Content Area:
Homes

Select Indicator:
Blood Lead Testing and Age of Housing

Select Measure:
Number of homes built between 1950 and 1979 (as measured in the 2000 Census)

GO 3

Top of Page

This symbol means you are leaving the CDC.gov Web site. For more information, please see CDC's [Exit Notification and Disclaimer](#) policy.

Quick Links

- Home
- About Tracking Program
- State & Local Tracking Portals
- Indicators & Data
- Secure Portal
- Email page
- Print page
- Bookmark and share
- CDC on Facebook
- CDC on Twitter

Tracking Hot Topics

Heart attacks and air quality ? what's the connection?

We just reached 1000 Twitter followers.

Follow us to join the conversation and for the latest updates.

Podcast: Keep Carbon Monoxide Out

What's new and coming soon on the Tracking Network

View our Network Tutorial Videos

Listen to our Tracking podcasts

Resources

- Communication Features
- Join our List-serv
- Quick Reports
- Technical Notes

Text size: S M L XL

Get email updates

To receive email updates about this page, enter your email address:

[What's this?](#)

Figure 23. Data Query and Results page from the Info by Location link.

3.2 The Data Query and Results Page

See Figure 24 below to view the features of the Data Query and Results page.

Map View Graph View Table View About These Data

First Time User?

Hide Query Panel

* Step 1: Select Your Content ?

HeartAttack 1

Hospitalizations for HeartAttack 2

Crude rate of hospitalization for h...3

NATIONAL
Environmental Public
Health Tracking
Program

* Step 2: Choose Geography & Time ?

☒ All Counties

☐ California

☐ Colorado

☐ Connecticut

☐ Florida

☒ Louisiana

☒ Acadia Parish

☒ Allen Parish

4a

4 ☒ Show Counties

Clear Geography

☒ All Available Years

☐ 2000

☐ 2001

☐ 2002

☒ 2003 5

☐ 2004

☐ 2005

☐ 2006

6 ☒ Apply Smoothing

Clear Time

* Step 3: Advanced Options ?

Advanced Options (Optional)

Age Group

Gender

☐ Male

☒ Female 7

Clear Options

* Step 4: Submit ?

Run Query 8

Heart Attack | Hospitalizations for Heart Attack | Crude rate of hospitalization for heart attack among persons 35 and over per 10,000 population | Multiple Geo | 2003 | Smoothed | Female

By using these data, you signify your agreement to comply with the following requirements:

1. Use the data for statistical reporting and analysis only.
2. Do not attempt to learn the identity of any person included in the data and do not combine these data with other data for the purpose of matching records to identify individuals.
3. Do not disclose of or make use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and report the discovery to: trackingsupport@cdc.gov
4. Do not imply or state, either in written or oral form, that interpretations based on the data are those of the original data sources and CDC unless the data user and data source are formally collaborating.
5. Acknowledge, in all reports or presentations based on these data, the original source of the data and CDC.

Figure 24. The Query and Results page

If this is your first time composing a query on our public portal please click on the First Time User tab in the upper right hand corner of the page. Here you will find information about how to compose a query and how to use the icons you will see.

On the *Query and Results* page multiple data and display options are available. The *Query and Results* page is where you will find detailed data related to all the content areas on the Tracking Network. You can search by single or multiple states, counties, or years. The data will automatically display first in a map, if one is available, but you can choose the graph view or table view tabs as well.

The first three steps involve selecting a *Content Area*, *Indicator*, and *Measure*.

Content Area (the starting point for data categorization in the Tracking Network) is the general health effect or environmental area about which you want more information. In the above example, *Asthma* is selected as the *Content Area*. From that selection, the next drop down box displays only *Indicators* pertaining to *Asthma*.

Indicators are available within each content area. For Tracking, an indicator is one or more items, characteristics or other things that will be assessed and that provide information about a population's health status, their environment, and other factors with the goal of allowing us to monitor trends, compare situations, and better understand the link between environment and health. It is assessed through the use of direct and indirect measures (e.g. levels of a pollutant in the environment as a measure of possible exposure) that describe health or a factor associated with health (i.e., environmental hazard, age) in a specified population.

Measures are available for each indicator. On the Tracking Network, a measure is a summary characteristic or statistic, such as a sum, percentage, or rate.

Now, we will step through the Query and Results process. Depending on how you came to this page you may be able to skip steps 1 and 2, they may already be populated.

Note that as you build your query a trail of your selections is written so you can see the options you have chosen.

Heart Attack | Hospitalizations for Heart Attack | Crude rate of hospitalization for heart attack among persons 35 and over per 10,000 population | Multiple Geo | 2003

Step 1. Select a *Content Area* from the drop down box.

Step 2. Select an *Indicator* from the drop down box.

Step 3. Select a *Measure* from the drop down box.

Step 4. Once you have selected your *Content Area*, *Indicator*, and *Measure*, you will only see state and county options for which data were reported to the Tracking Network. If all 50 states have data to view, then all 50 states will populate the geography.

Step 4a. In addition, some selections will not allow you to query data at the county level. Only if you see drop down arrow next to a state, can you expand it to select specific counties. To see data for all counties for a selected state(s) check the *All Counties* box. Counties will be selected automatically. To make your own county selection uncheck All Counties and expand the list.

Step 5. After you have made your geography selections, select a time period. The years available also vary by the data provided to the Tracking Network. The time options will populate after a geography selection is made.

If you want to change the state, year, or both, click *Clear Geography* or *Clear Time*.

At this point you can skip to Step 8 and select *RUN QUERY*. If you need to make more selections, continue to Step 6.

Step 6. To see smoothed data, if available, check the box for *Apply smoothing to view pattern across counties*.

Smoothed data is the average of a measure based on the information about that area and the areas around it. Smoothing is only available for some measures and can only be applied at the county level. You must select All Counties to apply smoothing. **If you choose to view these data smoothed, do not attempt to interpret the results for any single county, but instead, use the data to identify patterns across the state.**

Smoothing borrows information from neighboring areas to stabilize results from

sparsely populated areas. Smoothing is used to reduce variability in the data, allowing patterns to emerge.

Step 6a. Additional information about an option can be found by choosing this icon .

Step 7. The advanced options contain additional filters that may include Ethnicity, Gender, Race, and Age Group.

Step 8. Click *Run Query* to view the results. Note the use agreement below the query panel options. (Figure 25)

By using these data, you signify your agreement to comply with the following requirements:

1. Use the data for statistical reporting and analysis only.
2. Do not attempt to learn the identity of any person included in the data and do not combine these data with other data for the purpose of matching records to identify individuals.
3. Do not disclose or make use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently and report the discovery to: trackingsupport@cdc.gov
4. Do not imply or state, either in written or oral form, that interpretations based on the data are those of the original data sources and CDC unless the data user and data source are formally collaborating.
5. Acknowledge, in all reports or presentations based on these data, the original source of the data and CDC.

Figure 25. Data Query and Results page use agreement.

The results panel will populate and you will see four tabs. Three of them let you view the results in map, graph, or table format. The default for every query is a map. If a map is not available the view will default to a graph. See Step 8d for more details about maps. The fourth tab is About These Data, where footnotes are located.

From any of these four views you can utilize the print, share, and csv options.



Clicking the Print icon allows you to print the current view of the query results.

Clicking the Share icon will open a dialog box with a hyperlink to the query you just created that you can then copy and paste.

Clicking the CSV icon will export the table results into a CSV file that you can download and save to open in excel or other application of your choice.

Step 8a. Select *Map View* to view results in a map. If the data are insufficient or not appropriate for generating a map this tab will be grayed out.

If you select multiple states, the system will return a map with all states for which data are available, but only those states you selected will appear on your tables and graphs. This also applies to counties within the states. (Figure 26)

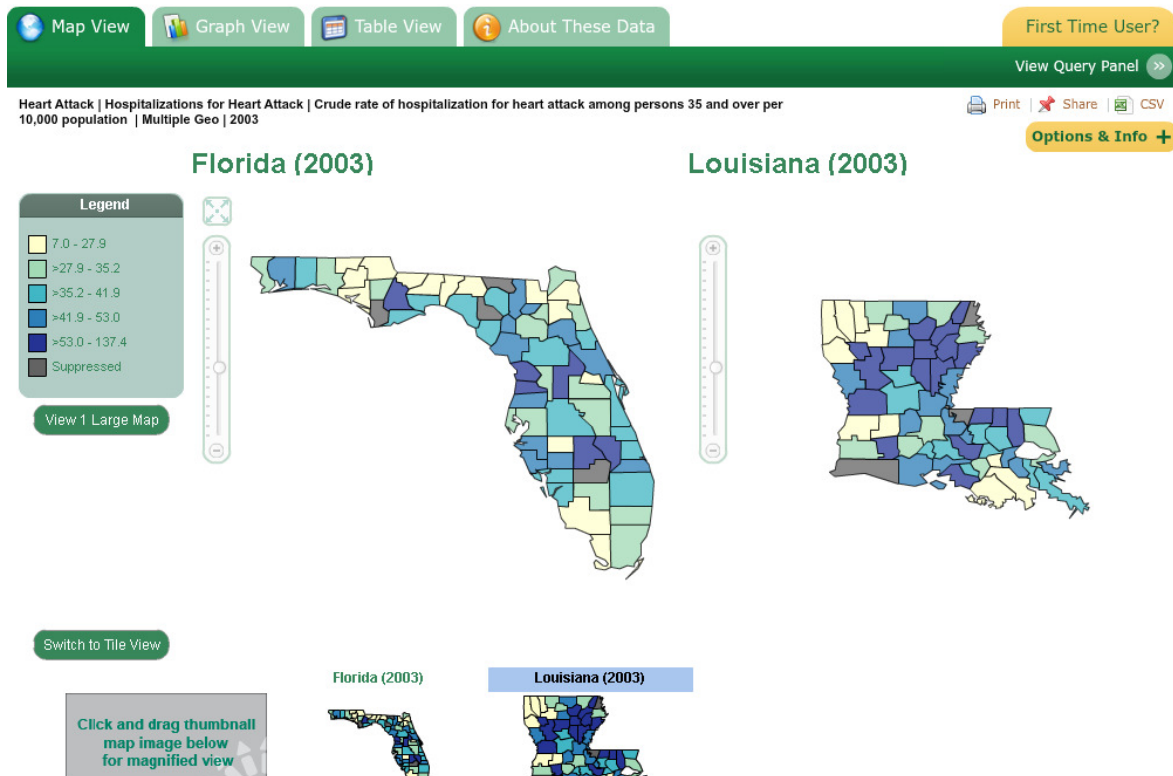


Figure 26. Map view results.

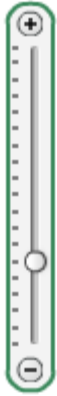
Additional features of the map view:



Initial extent – Return the maps to their original size.

Switch to Tile View

Tile view – Use to view multiple maps as tiled icons.



Zoom – Zoom in and out of maps.

View 2 Large Maps

View 1 Large Map

View 1 or 2 Large Maps – Maps of individual states (the same or different) can be viewed side by side using this option. Maps of the same state in this view can be linked to zoom at the same rate.



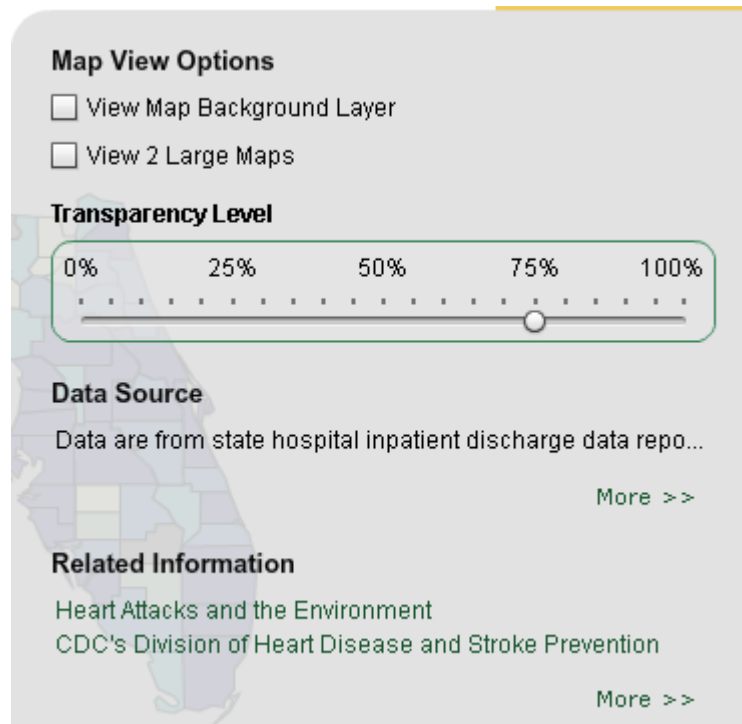
Link Maps - Link two maps of the same state together.



AK & HI Insets – When available, click to bring Alaska and Hawaii into view.

Options & Info +

Options & Info – Expand for additional features of the map view and other information related to your query. Once inside you will see the following map view options:



View Map Background Layer – Turn on the map background layer to see roads and bodies of water.

View 2 Large maps – Performs the same as the above view large map example. Maps of individual states (the same or different) can be viewed side by side using this option. Maps of the same state in this view can be linked to zoom at the same rate.

Transparency Level – Alter the transparency of the base layer of the map. This works best when used with the map background layer.

Data Source – Expand for information about where the data you are viewing came from.

Related Information – See footnotes and links to pages within the Tracking Network or partner websites that provide background information about the topic you have chosen.

Step 8b. From the tabs, select *Graph View* to view results graphically. (Figure 27)

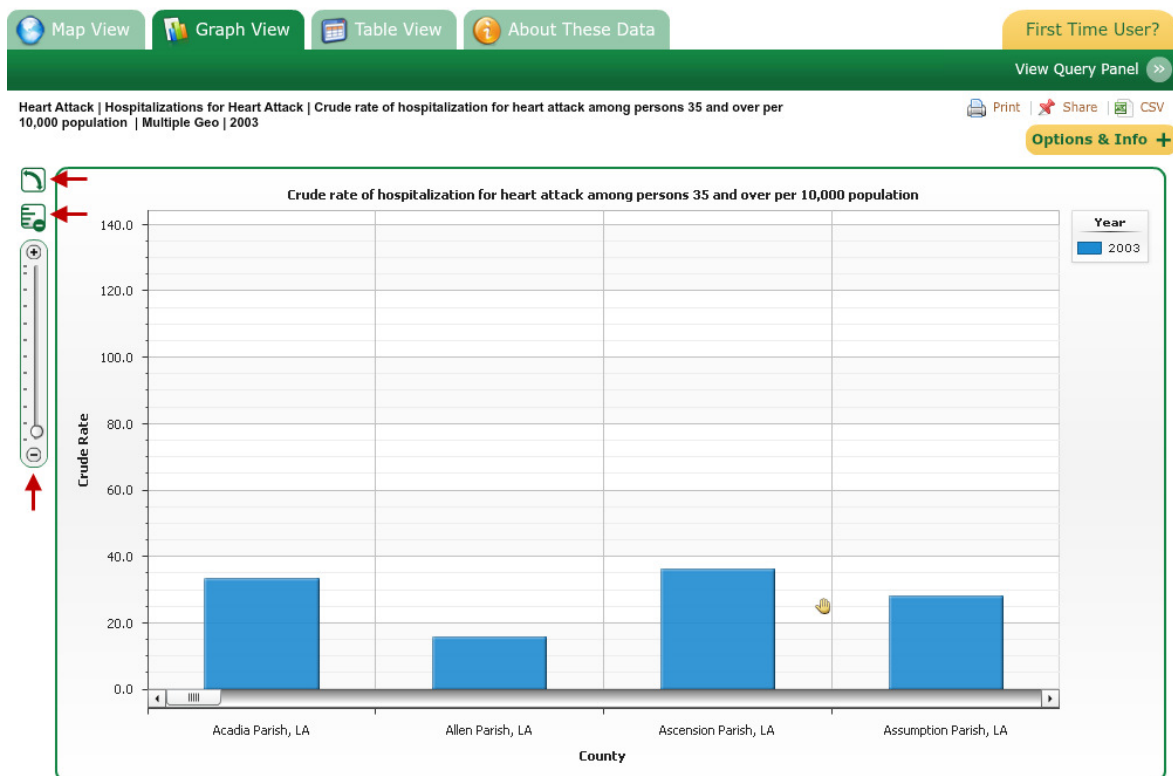


Figure 27. The Data Query and Results graph view

Additional features of the graph view:



Flip Axis – View graph in a horizontal or vertical bar graph.



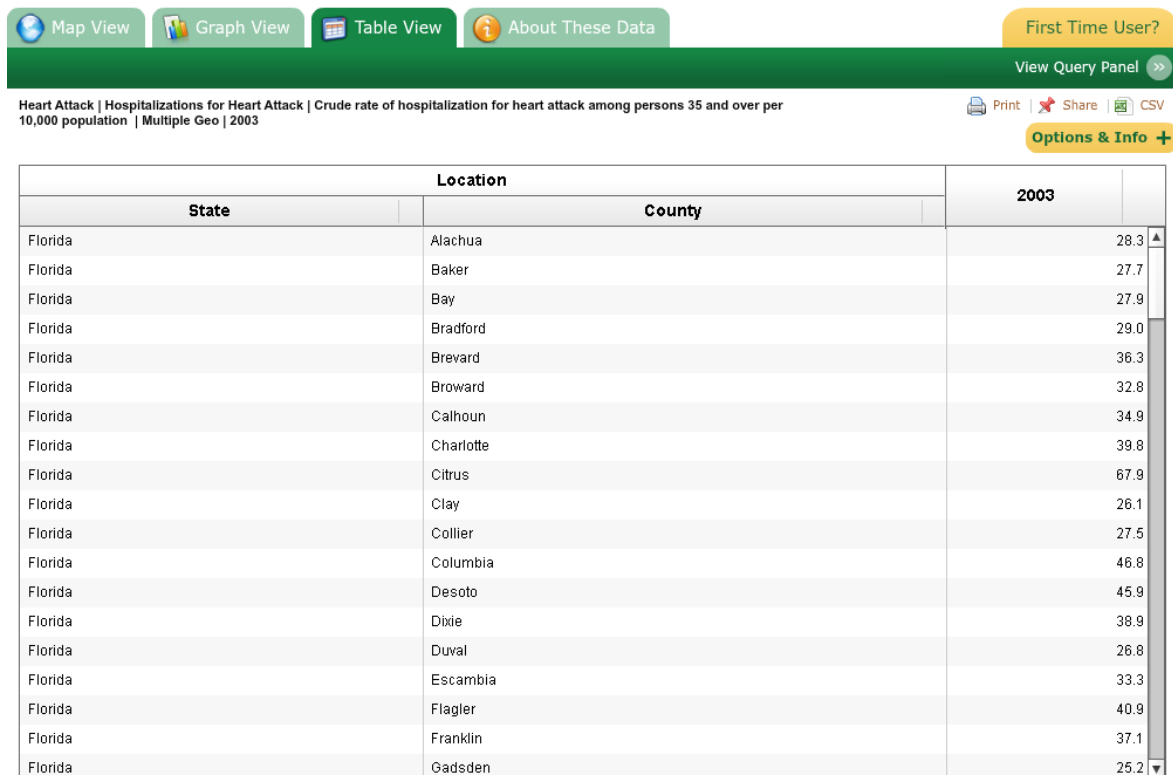
Hide Suppression and No Data Bars – Use to change the results to only show locations with data displayed.

Step 8c. Select Table View to view results in a table. (Figure 28)

When viewing tables you may see red asterisk (***) symbols and color coding.

The *** symbols means the value is a non-zero count less than 6 and corresponding rates have been suppressed (hidden from view) to protect confidentiality.

Numbers highlighted in red are rates or measures with a relative standard error greater than 30%, are unstable (created based on a small number), and have been highlighted or suppressed to prevent misinterpretation.



State	Location County	2003
Florida	Alachua	28.3
Florida	Baker	27.7
Florida	Bay	27.9
Florida	Bradford	29.0
Florida	Brevard	36.3
Florida	Broward	32.8
Florida	Calhoun	34.9
Florida	Charlotte	39.8
Florida	Citrus	67.9
Florida	Clay	26.1
Florida	Collier	27.5
Florida	Columbia	46.8
Florida	Desoto	45.9
Florida	Dixie	38.9
Florida	Duval	26.8
Florida	Escambia	33.3
Florida	Flagler	40.9
Florida	Franklin	37.1
Florida	Gadsden	25.2

Figure 28. The Data Query and Results table view

Additional Features of the Table View:

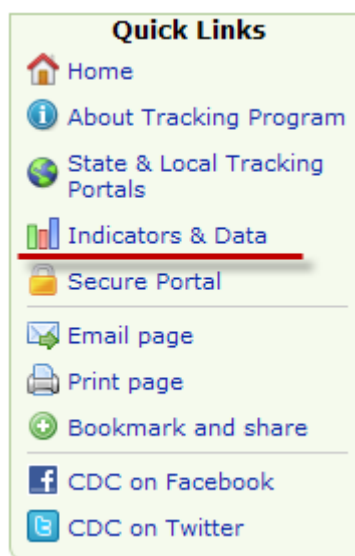
States and county columns can be sorted alphabetically. The time period column can also be sorted numerically and the years reordered for a more customized view.

Step 8d. Select *About These Data* for a description of the data you are about to view. These may also be referred to as footnotes which are associated with the results you receive and are based on the categories you have chosen. They provide information about the measure's source, quality, and general characteristics.

3.3 Query Indicators

From the home page:

Step 1. Click the *Indicators & Data* link under Quick Links.



Step 2. From the drop down lists on the *Indicators* section, select a *Content Area* and an *Indicator*. (Figure 29)

Step 3. Click *Go*.

Indicators

An [environmental public health indicator](#) provides information about a population's health status with respect to environmental factors. Tracking Indicators were developed in collaboration with national, state, and local environmental health partners. Here you can access detailed information about each indicator available on the Tracking Network.

View Indicator Definitions and Documentation:

Content Area:

Childhood Lead Poisoning

Indicator:

Blood Lead Testing and Housing Age

GO

2

2

3

Figure 29. Indicator Definitions and Documentation lookup screen

A chart will appear that lists the indicator type, Tracking related measures, geography, time, rationale for choosing this measure for the Tracking Network, use of and limitations on the measures' data source. (Figure 30)

Indicator: Blood Lead Testing and Housing Age

Content Area:

Childhood Lead Poisoning

 View Maps, Tables and Charts

Indicator:

Blood Lead Testing and Housing Age

Type of EPHT Indicator	Hazard /Intervention
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of children born in the same year and tested for lead before age 3 2. Percent of children born in the same year and tested before age 3 3. Number of homes built before 1950 (as measured in the 2000 Census) 4. Number of homes built between 1950 and 1979 (as measured in the 2000 Census) 5. Percent of homes built before 1950 (as measured in the 2000 Census) 6. Percent of homes built between 1950 and 1979 (as measured in the 2000 Census)
Derivation of Measure(s)	<p>Use birth year cohort to calculate the percentage of children with at least one ZIP test prior to age 36 months.</p> <p>Use 2000 Census, Summary file 3, to calculate the percentage of pre-1950 housing units and percentage of children under 5 living in poverty.</p> <p>Merge testing and housing data files by geography.</p>
Unit	Tested child Proportion of houses by age-based hazard assessment
Geographic Scope	State and national (tracking network states)
Geographic Scale	county and state
Time Period	Begin with year 2000 birth cohort and repeat for each succeeding birth cohort once they reach age 3 years.
Time Scale	Annual
Rationale	<p>Elevated BLLs in young children have been associated with adverse health effects ranging from learning impairment and behavioral problems to death. Because children may have elevated BLLs and not have any specific symptoms, CDC recommends a blood-lead test for young children at risk for lead poisoning. Risk factors identified in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) include living in housing built before 1950, especially deteriorating condition, being African American and living in a family in poverty.</p> <p>Many states have adopted a targeted testing strategy (test children at high risk), and some states recommend universal testing (test all young children). Nevertheless, studies have documented low blood-lead testing rates among children at high risk. CDC recommends that state and local childhood lead poisoning prevention programs (CLPPPs) evaluate testing among high-risk populations. All CLPPPs have assessed testing in their states but many methods have been used and it is not possible to compare across states.</p> <p>CLPPPs also administer education campaigns for physicians and parents about childhood lead poisoning to enable them to identify children at risk.</p> <p>For both universal testing plans and targeted testing plans, children should be tested at least once before the age of 3 years. Some states require more than one test between the ages of 6 and 36 months. Using a birth cohort, the number of children born in a specific year tested before the age of 36 months can be determined.</p>
Use of the Measure	<p>Identify populations that are not being tested adequately and improve testing</p> <p>Allow for a better understanding of what the blood-lead surveillance data represent</p> <p>Allow for comparison across states; such comparison can be used to target interventions (especially CDC, EPA, HUD)</p> <p>Identify communities at risk and the percentage of children being tested.</p> <p>Identify children who should be tested for lead by identifying high-risk communities</p>
Limitations of the Measure	<p>This measure estimates testing rates in children living in communities which may be at greater risk of exposure due to older housing. It is a surrogate for a child's risk of lead poisoning due to lead paint in the home. A more direct measure would be based on individual children and the actual age of their housing.</p> <p>Some tested children's addresses are not in the CLPPP data system, while only the provider's address is provided for other children. This can result in some tests being attributed to the wrong ZIP code or not being counted at all.</p> <p>Using number of pre-1950s housing from Census does not account for houses that have been renovated or have had lead removed.</p> <p>This measure does not account for other lead sources in the community.</p> <p>Children may be exposed to lead paint in neighboring counties (visiting family, day care)</p> <p>Many states require children be tested more than once. This indicator does not determine how many children are tested more than once to meet such state requirements.</p>
Data Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Childhood Blood Lead Testing Surveillance data 2. US Census (Summary file 3) 3. Vital statistics birth data for number of births
Limitations of Data Sources	<p>Childhood blood-lead surveillance data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance data are not randomly sampled or representative of the population. • Addresses for all children tested are not included. • Address of the treating clinic is listed sometimes as the address of the child. • Race and ethnicity are not always captured. <p>Census data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data are available only every 10 years. • Information on renovation of pre-1950 housing is not available. • Information on the condition of the housing is not available. • Address level information on the year the housing was built is not available. <p>Vital Statistics Birth Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may move to another ZIP code or county after birth

Figure 30. Indicator screen from the home page *Query Indicators & Data tab*

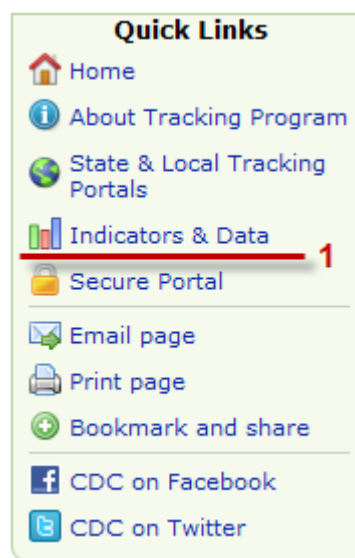
From this screen you can modify your selections or click on *View Maps, Tables and Charts* to go directly to the Data Query and Results page.

See Section 3.2 for the Data Query and Results page example and steps.

3.4 Search and View Metadata

From the home page:

Step 1. Click the *Indicators & Data* link



Under the **Search for Data** section, you will find a keyword search.

Step 2. Enter a keyword and click *GO* to perform a general metadata search.

(Figure 31)

Note: Only keywords found in the metadata records will return a result. If you have used a word that is not found in any metadata record, you will not see any results.

Search for Data

Metadata are "data about data". Metadata describe the content, quality, and context of a dataset and provide links to additional information such as quality assurance documents and data dictionaries. The Tracking Network contains metadata records for datasets used to create the Tracking Indicators and for datasets maintained by national, state, and local environmental health partners.

Search Data-Indicators and Data:

Type in Keywords:

GO [Advanced Search](#)

Figure 31. Data-Indicators and Data search area

The system returns a results page that displays all the metadata records that include your keyword. The description also includes the dataset title, abstract, and time period information. (Figure 32)

Metadata Summary

Search Data-Indicators and Data:

Type in Keywords:

GO [Advanced Search](#)

Keyword Search: asthma

Results found: **10 of 276** [« Previous](#) [Next »](#)

National_Asthma_Myocardial Infarction_Hospitalizations

This dataset contains annual case counts of asthma and myocardial infarction inpatient hospitalizations of residents of 14 US states (MA, NJ, NY, UT, WA, CA, CT, MO, NH, NM, OR, WI, FL, ME) for the years 2000 to 2006. These data are stratified by year of admission, county of residence, age group, race, and gender.

Data Time Period: 20000101 - 20061231 [View Full Metadata](#)

NH_Asthma_Myocardial Infarction_Hospitalizations_2001

SOURCE DATA: The NH Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set (UHDDS). Inpatient and Emergency Department Acute Care Hospital Discharge data is collected under New Hampshire statute RSA 126:25 requiring all NH facilities to report discharge data to the NH Department of Health and Human Services. Records of discharges of NH residents that occurred in Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine are obtained by the Department through special interstate data exchange agreements with the agencies in those states responsible for collection of discharge data. Those agencies are the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, the Maine Health Data Organization, and the Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration.

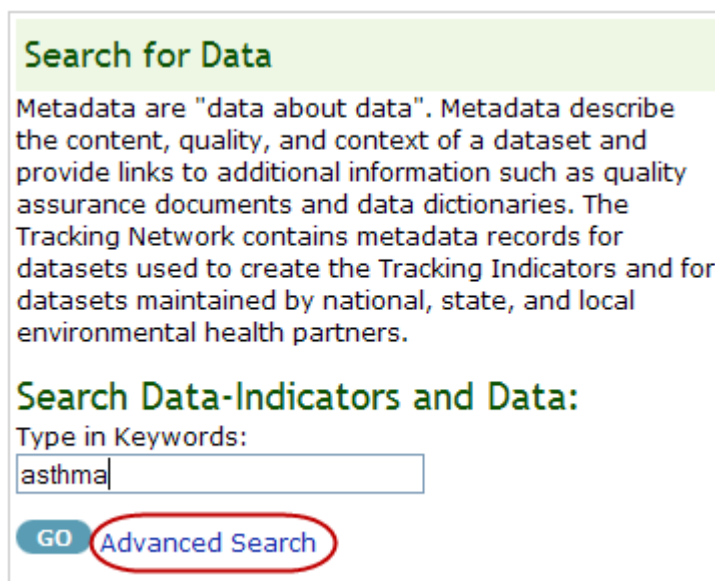
Data Time Period: 20010101 - 20011231 [View Full Metadata](#) [Download Data](#)

Figure 32. Metadata Summary

These results are short descriptions of the available metadata records. You can choose to view the full metadata report, which contains a complete description of the data according to the Tracking Network metadata standard.

For a more specific metadata view, perform an *Advanced Search*.

Note the *Advanced Search* option in the *Search for Data* section of the *Indicators & Data* main page. This option will allow you to refine your search further. (Figure 33)



Search for Data

Metadata are "data about data". Metadata describe the content, quality, and context of a dataset and provide links to additional information such as quality assurance documents and data dictionaries. The Tracking Network contains metadata records for datasets used to create the Tracking Indicators and for datasets maintained by national, state, and local environmental health partners.

Search Data-Indicators and Data:

Type in Keywords:

asthma

GO **Advanced Search**

Figure 33. The *Search for Data* drop down list from the *Advanced Search* option

Select the *Advanced Search Options* to open the search criteria page. (Figure 34)

Step 1. Specify a date range—or choose not to search based on time period.

Step 2. Search for keywords from the categories in the drop down list (for example Abstract, Purpose, Location, Keyword, Title). When searching more than one word you must choose an (*AND/OR*) connector.

Step 3. To see the results, click *Search*.

Tracking A-Z Index A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

Glossary A-Z CDC A-Z Tracking A-Z

Advanced Search

Specify Time Period of Content 1
Specify a date or date range by selecting one of the methods below.

☒ Don't search based on time period
☐ Get data whose date is
Before the date

☐ Get data from
through

Search in Full-Text(Any) or by Field 2
If you selected search topics earlier, sample search words are provided below to assist in finding data. You may modify these words, the fields that will be searched, or the AND/OR condition between the words.

Search In Search For Connector
Select AND
Select

3

Figure 34. The Advanced Search screen for Metadata

3.5 Sample Search Scenarios

To conclude the *Navigating and Using the Public Portal* chapter, here are a few sample scenarios.

3.5.1 I want to learn more about arsenic in water.

From the home page

Step 1. Click *Water* under Environments. (Figure 35)



Figure 35. The Environments tab


Step 2. Click *Community Water* or *More Community Water Data and Information*.
(Figure 36)

Water

All of us need clean water to drink. We can go for weeks without food, but only days without water. Contaminated water can be a threat to anyone's health, but especially to young children.

About half of our nation's drinking water comes from ground water. Most is supplied through community water systems. But many families rely on private, household wells and use ground water as their source of fresh water.


Drinking water protection programs at the state and national levels play a critical role in ensuring high quality drinking water and in protecting the public's health.



Community Water

About 90% of people in the United States get their water from a [community water system](#). These public water systems are required to provide drinking water that meets standards established under the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#). EPA establishes drinking water standards for individual contaminants and groups of contaminants.

[More community water data and information.](#) ← 2



Well Water

About 15% of Americans have their own sources of drinking water, such as household wells, cisterns, and springs. These water supplies are not regulated by the EPA. So, unlike public community water systems serving many people, they do not have experts regularly checking the water's source and its quality before it is sent through pipes to the community.

[More well water data and information.](#)

Figure 36. The Water landing page

Step 3. (Figure 37) Here you have three options. In the blue box labeled Additional Links, choose Arsenic. This will take you to information about arsenic, exposure, and prevention.

OR

Step 3a. Click the Indicator link on the same page to view a slide out of Community Water indicators. Click on *Arsenic in Community Water Systems*. This will lead you to information about this indicator, such as measure, descriptions, time period, and a scale of measures for arsenic and others.

OR

Step 3b. Click the Search Data link on the same page to open the Query and Results page. Select Arsenic in Community Water Systems as the indicator.

Water

[Home](#) > [Environments](#) > Community Water

National Environmental Public Health Tracking

- **Community Water**
- Tracking Community Water
- Related Links
- Go to Well Water
- Search Community Water Data

Tracking Links

[Environments](#)

[Health Effects](#)

[Info by Location](#)



Quick Links

[Community Water and Health](#)

[Community Water Monitoring in the US](#)

[Community Water Contaminants](#)

The majority of Americans are provided high-quality drinking water. About 90% of people in the United States get their water from a [community water system](#). The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) sets regulations for treating and monitoring drinking water delivered by community water systems. Water quality standards and monitoring requirements are in place for more than 90 contaminants. About 10% of people in the United States rely on smaller water supplies (mostly household wells) that are not regulated by EPA. Treatment and monitoring requirements for these small systems vary from state to state. Drinking water protection programs at the state and national levels play a critical role in ensuring high-quality drinking water and in protecting the public's health.

[Read More>>](#)

Additional Links

- Arsenic ← 3
- Disinfection By-products (DBP)
- Nitrate

Tracking Community Water



Learn how these data are collected and how they are being used on the Tracking Network.

Search Data ← 3b



Access data through maps, charts, and graphs

Related Links



Explore other resources for more information

Indicators ← 3a



Read about the indicators available for community water

Community Water Indicators Available on the Tracking Network

Three types of indicators are used. The public water use measures provide information about the segment of the population to which the measures apply. The level of contaminant shows how well the water systems are producing high-quality water. The potential population exposure measures use estimates of the population served by water supplies to show the potential for exposure to contaminants in drinking water on a population basis. These measures together indicate the potential for public health impacts from contaminant levels of concern.

Click on an indicator to read more about it.

[Arsenic in Community Water Systems](#) ← 3a

[Disinfection Byproducts in Community Water Systems](#)

[Nitrates in Community Water Systems](#)

[Public Water Use](#)

Search Community Water Data:

Arsenic in Community Water Systems

GO

← 3b

Figure 37. The options available from the *more community water data and information* link

3.5.2 I want to learn more about older homes in my state that have lead based paint.

From the Home page:

Step 1. Go to the Info by Location section, select a state and click the search button. (Figure 38)



Figure 38. The Info by Location state selection area

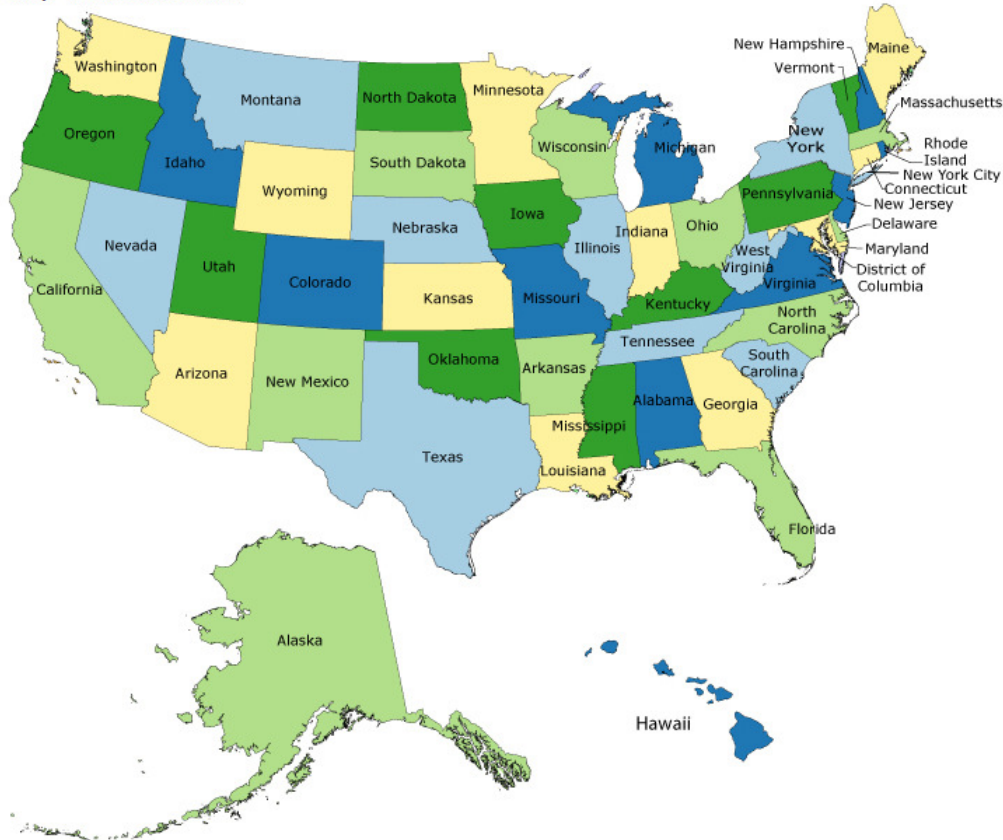
Step 2. (Figure 39) Under *Select your Content Area* choose *Homes* as the Content Area, *Blood Lead Testing & Housing Age* as the Indicator, and *Number of homes built before 1950* as the Measure.

Click *Go*.

Note: If you do not find the content area, indicator, and measure you are looking for, data is not available for that chosen state.

Query and Results

Step 1: Select a State.



Step 2: Select your content area.

You selected the state of: **Georgia**

Content Area:	Homes
Select Indicator:	Blood Lead Testing and Age of Housing
Select Measure:	Number of homes built before 1950 (as measured in the 2000 Census)
GO	

Figure 39. The Info by Location geography and content area selection screen

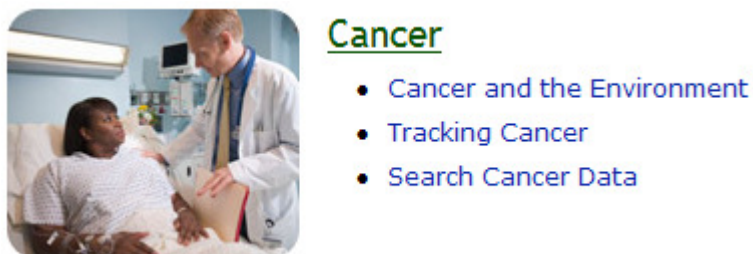
3.5.3 What kind of cancer information and data are on the Network.

Step 1. From the home page, click the *Health Effects* Tab. (Figure 40)



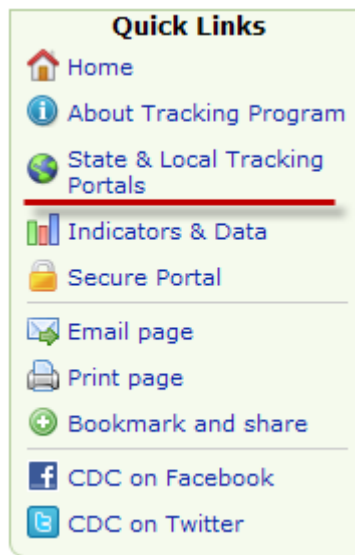
Figure 40. The Health Effects tab

Step 2. From the Cancer subheading, click *Tracking Cancer*. This will take you to information about how cancer data is tracked and provided to the Network.



3.5.4 I want to see the Tracking Network Public Portal for New Mexico.

Step 1. From the Quick Links, click *State & Local Tracking Portals*.



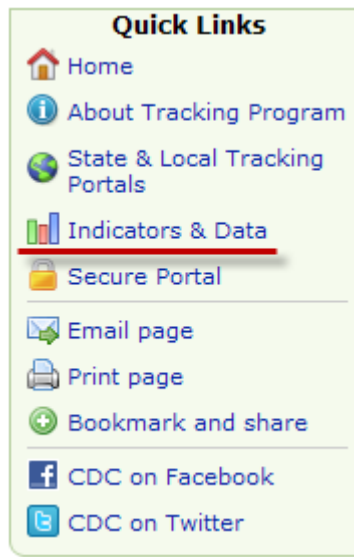
Step 2. Click on the image or link for New Mexico



[New Mexico](#) 

3.5.5 I want to find asthma metadata.

Step 1. From the Quick Links click *Indicators and Data*.



Step 2. In the *Search for Data* box—enter asthma as a keyword. (Figure 41)

Step 3. Click *GO* to view results.

Search for Data

Metadata are "data about data". Metadata describe the content, quality, and context of a dataset and provide links to additional information such as quality assurance documents and data dictionaries. The Tracking Network contains metadata records for datasets used to create the Tracking Indicators and for datasets maintained by national, state, and local environmental health partners.

Search Data-Indicators and Data:

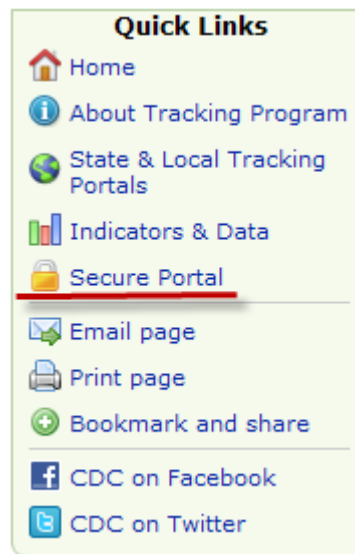
Type in Keywords:

2

3 Advanced Search

Figure 41. The *Search Data-Indicators and Data* area

4. The Secure Portal



What is it?

The Tracking Network's secure portal is a Web-based system that houses the Tracking Networks nationally consistent data and measures. Through the secure portal you can view data available to the Tracking Network at a more detailed level. You can also extract the data and synthesize it in your own way, in addition to the way the Tracking Network has presented it to you through the Data Query and Results panel.

What is its purpose?

To support the implementation of the Tracking Network's nationally consistent data and measures and provide a secure, online resource center for grantees, partners, and other public health practitioners.

Who can use it?

It is intended for use by grantees, partners, public health practitioners, and researchers.

How secure is it?

To protect potentially private and confidential health information, the secure portal employs rigorous security measures.

The CDC Secure Data Network (SDN) protects content on the secure portal. The SDN, which protects sensitive CDC data, has security measures that include:

- rigorous identity proofing conducted by the CDC's registrar,
- electronic security certificates installed on accessing computers,
- role-based security measures implemented in the portal itself.

Secure users will be responsible for establishing access to SDN and installing any required security certificates. These measures are in accordance with appropriate guidance issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

How can I register?

To become a registered user you must have an appropriate professional need to access the data and resources in the secure portal. (Figure 42)

Step 1 - To begin the process, fill out the Application for Access. If you are approved, you will receive an email that contains a web link to the SDN site and a password. This is your access to download the digital certificate.

Step 2 – The Digital Certificate and CDC Programs manual contain instructions for the SDN Enrollment Process, including instructions for installing the digital certificate.

Step 3 – Fill out the Data Request Form. Include a description of how the requested data will be used. The Tracking Program will forward this to the appropriate state or local Tracking Grantee who must approve your request.

Step 4 - After you are authorized to use the restricted data, you must sign a Data Use Agreement with the CDC, which will subject you to the terms of the relevant agreements between the CDC Tracking Program and data stewards or state and local Tracking Grantees.

Step 5 - When this process is complete, you can login to the Secure Portal.

Secure Portal

[Home](#) > About the secure portal

**National Environmental
Public Health Tracking**

Login **5**

► **What is the Secure
Portal?**

Application for Access **1**

Data Request Form for
Restricted-Access Data **3**

Tracking Links

[Environments](#)[Health Effects](#)[Info by Location](#)

The Secure Portal is coming soon.

What is the Secure Portal?

The secure portal of the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network provides access to resources for environmental and public health practitioners and researchers. Its primary functions are to:

- support the implementation of the Tracking Network's nationally consistent data and measures
- provide a secure, online resource center for grantees, partners, and other public health practitioners.

To gain access to the secure portal, you must become a registered user. The registration process ensures that individuals requesting access have an appropriate professional need to utilize the data and resources within the secure portal. Users who are approved will receive a username and password to access the system.

Content on the secure portal will be protected through the extensive security procedures and technical mechanisms of the [CDC Secure Access Management Services \(SAMS\)](#).

Secure users will be responsible for establishing access to SAMS and completing the identity verification process. These measures are in accordance with appropriate guidance issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Becoming a Registered User and Obtaining Authorization to Access Restricted Data

To become a registered user of the Secure Portal, requestors must submit a completed [application for access](#). As detailed in CDC's [Technical Network Implementation Plan](#), registered users will include:

- CDC staff and contractors,
- Tracking grantees,
- other data partners,
- other public health and environmental practitioners, and
- researchers.

The Tracking Program will review the application to ensure the stated objectives for accessing the secure portal are consistent with the types of data, tools, and services available on this site and with the purpose for which these Network assets were developed or obtained. All approved requestors will receive a formal invitation to SAMS via email. Applicants will have 30 days to login to SAMS and begin the identity verification process.

Once the SAMS registration and identity verification processes are complete, CDC Tracking staff will be notified that the applicant has been approved and will grant the applicant access to the Secure Portal.

Registration on the Secure Portal does not automatically allow registered users access to restricted datasets. To access these datasets, Secure Portal users must submit a [data request form](#), which includes a description of how the requested data will be used. For data provided to the Tracking Network by state or local Tracking Grantees, the Tracking Program will forward the data requests to the appropriate state or local Tracking Grantees. State or local Tracking Grantees will coordinate with their data stewards to approve, reject, or request additional information from the applicant as part of their review process. State or local Tracking Grantees will provide notification of final approval or rejection of the request to the Tracking Program. If a data request is rejected, the state or local Tracking Grantee will provide a reason for the rejection.

For data provided by national sources or sources other than state or local Tracking Grantees, requests for restricted data will be handled as specified by the data sharing agreement between the CDC Tracking Program and the data steward.

Users authorized to use restricted data will sign a [data use agreement](#) with CDC and will be subject to the terms within the relevant agreements between the CDC Tracking Program and data stewards or state and local Tracking Grantees.

Figure 42. The Secure Portal screen

5. Frequently Asked Questions

Data and Content Updates

Q: How often is new data added to the Tracking Network?

A: Usually data updates or new data are added to the Tracking Network 3 to 4 times per year. We perform periodic data calls throughout the year. The data updates come from both our grantee and national datasets and occur as data is released throughout the year.

Q: Where can I find more information about the Tracking Network's data sources?

A: There is a document titled *Data Sources Overview* in the Communication Materials section of the Communication Features page on the network. It is a quick view of where data comes from for the Tracking Network.

Data and Query Results Page

Q: How do I export data?

A: From the query results click on the CSV icon in the upper right hand side of the page. Follow the prompts to download and save the file.

Q: On the query panel, when I query data for one state it returns a map of all the states. Why?

A: In order to make the maps more useful and provide proper class breaks we need to include as many states as possible. Otherwise, we would not be able to display a map. The reason for it not displaying the way you are expecting is because our maps are available at specific scales and the system determines the ideal scale on its own. The map may need to zoom a little farther out to display properly. This scaling will change as updates are added to the system.

Q: Where can I find more information about how displayed data is calculated?

A: Each content area has a detailed indicator page. You can find these under the Indicators & Data tab. Many of the indicator pages include a section titled *Derivation of Measure(s)* that describe the calculations.

Q: Why do some of the query results display “No Data” in the charts?

A: The missing data is actually correct. Not all states submit the same years of data, because their data stewards give them the data at different times. You'll find that some states have all the way up to 2009, but some only to 2006. Also, a few are missing 2000-2003 as well.

Secure Portal

Q: What is the difference between the secure portal and the public portal?

A: The public portal is designed for use by the general public. In addition to data, it also contains important information about risk, exposure, and possible prevention behaviors.

The secure portal is designed for use by environmental public health practitioners. On the secure portal more detailed data, analysis, visualization, and reporting tools are provided. The secure portal is also used to pilot and refine the information and information resources that will be provided on the public portal.

Q: How do I gain access to the secure portal?

A: The secure portal is currently under development. Detailed information for accessing the secure portal is available on the public portal and in Chapter 4 of our User Guide. The User Guide in the Document Library under the Resources section of the Public Portal.

Get Help

Q: I have been exposed to a dangerous substance, what should I do?

A: If you need immediate medical attention, call your doctor or 911. If you are looking for information about how this substance may affect your health, call or email CDC Info at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) or cdcinfo@cdc.gov.

Q: How can I submit questions, comments, or suggestions to the Tracking Network?

A: We are very interested in your comments and suggestions. You can email us at trackingsupport@cdc.gov or call us at 1-877-923-TRACK (8722)

Get Involved

Q: Who are the Tracking Network grantees?

A: Grantees are state and local health departments that receive grants to help underwrite the collection and submission of data to CDC's Tracking Network. Our current grantees are:

California	Colorado	Connecticut
Florida	Iowa	Kansas
Louisiana	Massachusetts	Maryland
Maine	Minnesota	Missouri

New Hampshire	New Jersey	New Mexico
New York	Oregon	Pennsylvania
South Carolina	Utah	Vermont
Washington	Wisconsin	New York City

Q: How can I collaborate with the Tracking Network if I am not a Grantee?

A: When you contact us at trackingsupport@cdc.gov we will put you in contact with one of our Project Officers. Project Officers collaborate with states, universities, and non-government organizations directly. The Project Office will assist you in determining how we can work with you.

Q: How can I be updated on Tracking Network news and information?

A: You can subscribe to our list-serve by emailing us at epht@cdc.gov. Please include your name, email address, and the agency or organization for which you work.